

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SNAKE OF THE GENUS
CONTIA, B. & G., FROM PERSIA.

BY G. A. BOULENGER.

CONTIA *CONDONI*, sp. n.

Rostral broader than deep, the portion visible from above measuring about one-third its distance from the frontal; suture between the internasals a little shorter than that between the prefrontals; frontal one and a half to one and two thirds as long as broad, not much broader than the supraocular, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; nasal undivided; loreal small, as long as deep; one præocular; two post-oculars; temporals 1 + 2; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye; four lower labials in contact with the anterior chin-shields, which are longer than the posterior; chin-shields, of both pairs in contact with each other. Scales smooth, in 17 rows. Ventrals 169-173; anal divided; subcaudals 69-75. Pale brown above, with small blackish spots, forming narrow crossbars, continuous or interrupted and alternating on the back; white beneath.

Total length 520 mm.; tail 145.

Two specimens, male (V. 169; C. 75) and female (V. 173; C. 69), from Shiraz, presented by Lt.-Col. deV. Condon to the Bombay Natural History Society's Museum. The male is now in British Museum.*

This species is allied to *Contia fasciata*, Jan, and *C. brevicauda* Nikolsky, both of which are known from Persia. The scale formula alone enables one to distinguish the three snakes:—

C. condoni. Sc. 17; V. 169-173; C. 69-75.

C. fasciata. ,, 15; ,, 158-171; ,, 48-62.

C. brevicauda. ,, 15; ,, 158-168; ,, 38-41.

* The specimens have been killed in a very rough manner and are, therefore, unfortunately, in an unsatisfactory condition.